

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Philip J. Ellerbrock et al.

Appl No.: 09/736,878

Filed: December 14, 2000

For: NETWORK CONTROLLER FOR DIGITALLY

CONTROLLING REMOTE DEVICES VIA A COMMON BUS

Confirmation No.: 7632

Group Art Unit: 2155

Examiner: Michael Young Won

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

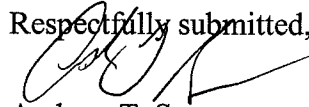
**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 22, 2006, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1 - 12 and 36 - 37, Group II, namely Claims 13 - 32, and Group III, namely Claims 33 - 35. Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1 - 12 and 36 - 37) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew T. Spence

Registration No. 45,699

**CUSTOMER NO. 00826**

**ALSTON & BIRD LLP**

Bank of America Plaza

101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000

Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000

Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111